

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AF-06 /081 W
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R 101325Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1234

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, XG, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL IRA BOMB ATTEMPT FAILS

REF: BELFAST 110 (NOTAL)

1. PROVISIONAL IRA IS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTEMPT
PROXY BOMB ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) STATION CENTER
BELFAST NIGHT MARCH 9. VEHICLE USED HI-JACKED IN
ANDERSONSTOWN AND DRIVER CLAIMS HIS FAMILY HELD HOSTAGE
WHILE ESTIMATED 250-300 POUNDS HOME MADE EXPLOSIVES, DETONATOR
AND TIMING DEVICE LOADED INTO VEHICLE. DRIVE TOOK VEHICLE
TO PROXIMITY MUSGRAVE STREET STATION GAVE ALARM AND NEIGHBORHOOD
WAS EVACUATED. DETONATOR APPARENTLY MISFUNCTIONED HOWEVER AND
DEVICE FAILED EXPLODE. TOOMERBRIDGE AREA WAS SCENE ANOTHER
ATTACK MARCH 9 AS GUNMEN FIRED ON AUTOMOBILE BEING DRIVEN BY
MEMBER ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT. TWO CATHOLIC BROTHERS
ASSASSINATED IN SHOOTING AND BOMBING ATTACK RESTAURANT OUTSIDE
LISBURN MARCH 9. WHILE POLICE HAVE NOT EXCLUDED ROBBERY AS
MOTIVE ATTACK HAS OBVIOUS SECTARIAN IMPLICATIONS.

2. PRESS HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLES TO
EFFECT PROVISIONAL IRA IN CONSULTATION WITH BOTH PORTUGUESE
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AND RHODESIAN TERRORISTS. EARLY REPORT HAD PROVISIONALS PROVIDING

EXPERTISE ON URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE INCLUDING INSTRUCTION IN BOMB AND BOOBY TRAP CONSTRUCTION. ITEM TODAY IN BELFAST NEWS LETTER CLAIMS PROVISIONALS HAVE "SIGNED A DEAL" WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS TO OBTAIN HEAVY CALIBER MACHINE GUNS AND SAM 7 HEAT-SEEKING ROCKETS. REPORT CONTINUES THAT PROVISIONALS WANT ROCKETS TO COUNTER BRITISH AIR COVERAGE IN SOUTH ARMAGH AND THAT MORTAR ATTACK ALDERGROVE (REFTEL) DESIGNED TO IMPRESS OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WITH PROVISIONAL KNOW-HOW.
SPICER

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